

Scripture for December 25, 2008

Reflection from John Surette, SJ

Divine Radiance

“In the beginning was the Word.”

At every moment since that beginning the Word has been uttered. At the present moment the Divine Word is being spoken throughout the Universe. This Word vibrates within and radiates out from every creature. This radiance is the primary language of God’s Universe.

The creative Word was uttered and our Universe flared forth into existence some 13.7 billion years ago. Let the heavens be glad and rejoice... the heavens with some billions of galaxies, each galaxy containing some hundred million stars.

No separation here, rather the presence of God, the incarnation of God, within the Universe. It is the marriage of the infinite and the finite. Our Universe is radiant with the Divine presence. This radiance is a great light. On this Christmas day of the first century of the third millennium we are invited to perceive and celebrate this light radiating throughout the Universe.



The creative Word was spoken and our beautiful Earth formed out of stardust some four and a half billion years ago. Over time Earth gave birth to its oceans and mountains and forests and prairies and living creatures of all kinds. Let the ocean and what fills it resound! Let the prairies be joyful and all that lives in them! Let all the trees of the forest exult!

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Earth, and One
Another.*

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No separation here, rather the presence of God, the incarnation of God, within Earth. It is the marriage of the infinite and the finite. Earth is radiant with the Divine presence. This radiance is a great light. On this Christmas day we are invited to perceive and celebrate this light.

The Divine Word was spoken and we humans appeared within Earth's community of life some two million years ago. Let humanity be glad and rejoice... humanity with its awesome diversity of races, cultures, philosophies and religions. Let humanity be glad and rejoice... humanity with all of its creative achievements in arts and crafts, in agriculture and literature, and in science and technology.

No separation here, rather the presence of God, the incarnation of God, within humankind. It is the marriage of the infinite and the finite. All of us - Chinese, Koreans, Russians, Indians, and Afghani; Iraqi, Israeli, Iranians and other Near Eastern peoples; Europeans, Africans, South Americans, Caribbean peoples, Indigenous peoples, Canadians and citizens of the United States – all of us are radiant with the Divine presence. This radiance is a great light. On this Christmas day we are invited to perceive and celebrate this light.

Again the creative Word was spoken and approximately 2008 years ago in the city of David called Bethlehem a young woman by the name of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, gave birth to her first born son and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. Upon those who at that time dwelt in the land of gloom a light shone in the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it. His birth gave birth to glad tidings and peace.

No separation here, rather the presence of God, the Incarnation of God, within Jesus of Nazareth. It is the marriage of the infinite and the finite. The child was radiant with the Divine presence. This unique radiance was a great light.

On this Christmas day of the first century of the third millennium, you and I gathered in this chapel are invited to bathe in that same light and to celebrate its radiating out of each of us.

Mystics throughout time and in all religious traditions have said the same thing, namely, that we do not have to search for God as if God is hidden from us. The Divine Word is spoken within and radiates out of the Universe and its Earth. It is spoken within and radiates out of Jesus. It is spoken within and radiates out of each one of us at this moment on this Christmas Day 2008.

Let us practice becoming containers for the holding of this Divine Radiance!

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